Claims

1. A method of operating a forward error correction decoder, the method comprising:

determining which data elements in a code word including parity data elements are error-free;

marking elements in an erasure information word which correspond to error-free data elements as correct;

maintaining a count of elements marked as correctable in the erasure information word; and

whilst the count of elements marked as correctable has not exceeded a threshold and whilst elements not marked as correct or correctable remain in the erasure information word, marking non-marked elements of the erasure information word as correctable beginning with elements corresponding to parity data elements and then continuing for the other elements in the erasure information word.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising indicating the presence of uncorrected data at an output.

3. A method as claimed in either preceding claim, in which the code word is a row of a coding table.

4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the decoder is a Reed Solomon decoder.

5. A forward error correction decoder, comprising one or more processors arranged to:

determine which data elements in a code word including parity data elements are error-free;

mark elements in an erasure information word which correspond to error-free data elements as correct;

maintain a count of elements marked as correctable in the erasure information word; and

mark, whilst the count of elements marked as correctable has not exceeded a threshold and whilst elements not marked as correct or correctable remain in the erasure information word, non-marked elements of the erasure information word as correctable beginning with elements corresponding to parity data elements and then continuing for the other elements in the erasure information.

6. A decoder as claimed in claim 5, in which the one or processors is further arranged to indicate the presence of uncorrected data at a decoder output.

7. A decoder as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 , in which the code word is a row of a coding table.

8. A decoder as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7, implemented as a Reed Solomon decoder.

9. A decoder as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8, in which the decoder has 255 element columns, 191 of which are non-parity data element columns.

10. A receiver including a forward error correction decoder as claimed in any of claims 5 to 9.

11. A receiver as claimed in claim 10, implemented as a digital video broadcasting receiver.

12. A mobile terminal including a receiver as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11.